IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the present application:

1. (Previously presented) A method for verifying a document via a distributed computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) creating an electronic version of the document on a first client in the computer network, wherein said electronic document includes an acceptance option for a Consent to Electronic Records (CER);

(b) storing the electronic document on a server in the computer network;

(c) retrieving the electronic document using a notary application via a second client in the computer network;

(d) presenting a signing party with said acceptance option for said CER;

(e) electronically affixing at least one signing party's signature to the electronic document using said notary application via the second client only if said signing party accepts the CER;

(f) electronically affixing a verifying party's signature and seal to the electronic document using said notary application via the second client, wherein said seal is stored electronically by said notary application, and wherein the verifying party may be any certified party that has authority by law to verify and authenticate the signer of a document; and

(g) storing the signed, notarized, electronic document on said server.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the verifying party in step (e) is a notary.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the seal is stored electronically in the notary application on the second client.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the verifying party's signature is stored on the second client.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the signing party is provided with the location of an authorized verifying party nearest to the signing party's geographic location.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

creating and updating an electronic journal file containing information regarding the verification transaction, wherein said file is stored in a journal database for the verifying party.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the information stored in the journal file may include:

sending party;

time;

dates;

type of document;

fees;

type of notarization;

signer's signature; and

verification information.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein an authorized verifying party can both create the electronic document and verify the electronic document.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a certified creator can only create the electronic document.

11. (Previously presented) A system for verifying a document via a distributed computer network, the system comprising:

(a) means for creating an electronic version of the document on a first client in the computer network, wherein said electronic document includes an acceptance option for a Consent to Electronic Records (CER);

(b) means for storing the electronic document on a server in the computer network;

(c) means for retrieving the electronic document using a notary application via a second

client in the computer network, using a notary application;

(d) means for presenting a signing party with said acceptance option for a CER;

(e) means for electronically affixing at least one signing party's signature to the electronic document using said notary application via the second client only if said signing party accepts the CER;

(f) means for electronically affixing a verifying party's signature and seal to the electronic document using said notary application via the second client, wherein said seal is stored electronically by said notary application, and wherein the verifying party may be any certified party that has authority by law to verify and authenticate the signer of a document; and

(g) means for storing the signed, notarized, electronic document on said server.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 11, wherein the seal is stored electronically in the notary application on the second client.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the verifying party's signature is stored on the second client.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 11, further comprising:

an electronic journal file containing information regarding the verification transaction, wherein said file is stored in a journal database for the verifying party.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 15, wherein the information stored in the journal file may include:

sending party;

time;

dates;

type of document;

fees;

type of notarization;

signer's signature; and

verification information.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 11, further comprising means for providing the signing part with the location of an authorized verifying party nearest to the signing party's geographic location

18. (Previously presented) A computer program product in a computer readable medium, for verifying a document via a distributed computer network, the computer program product comprising:

(a) first instructions for creating an electronic version of the document, wherein said electronic document includes an acceptance option for a Consent to Electronic Records (CER);

(b) second instructions for storing the electronic document on a server in the computer network;

(c) third instructions for retrieving the electronic document from said server;

(d) fourth instructions for presenting a signing party with said acceptance option for a CER;

(e) fifth instructions for electronically affixing at least one signing party's signature to the electronic document only if said signing party accepts the CER;

(f) sixth instructions for electronically affixing a verifying party's signature and seal to the electronic document, wherein said seal is stored electronically by the computer program, and wherein the authorized user may be any certified party that has authority by law to verify and authenticate the signer of a document; and

(f) sixth instructions for storing the signed, notarized, electronic document on said server.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 18, wherein the verifying party's signature is stored by the computer program.

22. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising instructions for providing the signing party with the location of an authorized verifying party nearest to the signing party's geographic location.

23. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising:

an electronic journal file containing information regarding the verification transaction, wherein said file is stored in a journal database for the verifying party.

24. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 23, wherein the information stored in the journal file may include:

sending party;

time;

dates;

type of document;

fees;

type of notarization;

signer's signature; and

verification information.